



SEAT PLEASANT NEWS

JANUARY 2012 EDITION Visit us on the web at: www.seatpleasantmd.gov

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City of Seat Pleasant

Mayor

Eugene W. Grant

Council President

Kelly Porter

(At-Large Councilmember)

Ward I Councilmember

Elenora Simms

Ward II Councilmember

Aretha Stephenson

Ward III Councilmember

Reveral Yeargin

Ward IV Councilmember

Gerald Raynor

Ward V Councilmember

Darrell Hardy

At-Large Council member

VACANT

City Administrator

Vincent E. Jones

Treasurer

Robert L. Ashton

Chief of Police

Samuel Prue

Director of Public Works

Johnny Thompson

City Clerk

Dashaun Lanham



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

The great American Poet Laureate of the Harlem Renaissance, **Langston Hughes** masterfully wrote in his "Still Here" poem:

"I been scared and battered.
My hopes the wind done scattered.
Snow has friz me,
Sun has baked me,

Looks like between 'em they done
Tried to make me

Stop laughin', stop lovin', stop livin'—
But I don't care!
I'm still here!

The year 2011, was a year of challenge for many of our neighbors as well as many of us. They weathered many storms some of which were calamitous. There has been financial ruin in some cases. Foreclosure hit some of our neighbors. Others had to deal with debilitating illness, stress and mental anguish. Death, the unwelcomed guest, paid an unexpected visit to someone's home. Loss of a job hit some of our neighbors while others were confronted with less hours of work. The bills turned into a sea of debt for many of us and we felt as if we were drowning.

The fear of the unknown hit so many. People wanted to give up, throw in the proverbial towel, and raise the white cloth of surrender. They had the feelings of misery, despair and sadness. Many of our neighbors felt as though they had nowhere to go, and nowhere to turn. Their faith had become shaken. They felt hopeless and helpless. Yes, for many of our neighbors these were perilous times.

Additionally, we have had to deal with the paramours of wickedness. Those who attempted to sabotage and foil our plans to progress were eagerly waiting for us to fail. Traps and snares were laid to entrap us and render us unmovable. People told untruths about us in an unsuccessful attempt to destroy our credibility and slander our good names.

While these times have been arduous and sometimes debilitating **we are still here**. We have weathered the storm. We have run through a troop of evil doers and have leaped over a wall. Our enemies have stumbled and fallen into their own traps. We have been in our furnace of affliction but the flame did not burn us. We crossed the tumultuous river of sadness but it did not drown us. While we may have some losses in certain areas of our lives we have been blessed in soul, mind and body when compared to others who are far worse than ourselves. **We are still here**.

Since we have been blessed to make it through 2011 into 2012 there is still hope for a better and more excellent future. Are you ready for the New Year? Are you ready for positive change? Are you ready for your life to improve? Well, I hope you responded in the affirmative because the best is yet to come in 2012 for Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence. It is our time to move on the pathway from good to great! We are about

(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

(MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

to experience an explosion of good fortune in our City, in our family and in our own life. Yes, it is our time because we are still here. I encourage you to keep the faith. Hold your head high. Be proud of your community and support it in any way that you can. If we continue to forge ahead and keep the faith we will be **A City of Excellence!**

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

The City Council has passed the following legislations in the month of December

RESOLUTION R-12-06

Resolution to declare and consent to observe the day after Thanksgiving as a City Holiday for 2011

RESOLUTION R-12-07

Resolution for the purpose of exempting from the City's competitive bidding requirements the acquisition of an essential building analysis for the Feggans Center to support the State Highway Administration MD/704 Martin Luther King Jr. Highway Safety Enhancement Project

RESOLUTION R-12-08

Resolution for the purpose of providing for day-to-day administrative coordination of the work and duties of the City Clerk by the City Administrator.

ORDINANCE O-12-10

***FOR** the purpose of repealing the City's existing Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual and adopting a new Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual to stand in the place of the Manual repealed; repealing certain provisions of the City Code dealing with sexual harassment and discrimination that are superseded by provisions in the new Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual; providing comprehensive rules and regulations relating to employment with The City of Seat Pleasant and conduct, obligations, duties, rights and responsibilities of City officials and employees; providing that the provisions of the new Personnel Rules and Regulations Manual supersede any conflicting provision of the City Code; providing for the severability of the provisions of this Ordinance and the Manual; and matters generally relating to personnel matters in The City of Seat Pleasant.*

Copies of this legislation are available from the Office of the City Clerk at:

City Hall
6301 Addison Road
Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743-2125



CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT

Notice to fill Vacancy-Council member

The City of Seat Pleasant City Council has a vacant Council seat. Any qualified resident of the City of Seat Pleasant who desires to be a candidate for Councilmember must submit their resume, letter of interest, and Candidate Nomination Petition by Monday, January 23, 2012 before 5:00p.m.

All submissions for consideration **MUST** be filed in the **office of the City Clerk**, Seat Pleasant City Hall, 6301 Addison Road, Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743, Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

A MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Greetings from Council President Porter,



The Seat Pleasant 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast was held on Thursday, December 15, 2011. The theme was Building Partnerships and Shaping Our Future. We as the Council are moving forward by identifying our legislative priorities, as we are fostering partnerships that will enhance the lives our citizens and surrounding neighbors.

We are pleased that we are pressing forward to achieve all that is necessary for our City to become "A City of Excellence". We have had meetings with several organizations to include the State Highway Ad-

(CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

(COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

-ministration (SHA), Maryland –National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCP&P) and representatives from the County Government, as well as meeting with developers that will be instrumental in the revitalization of our infrastructure. We are working on a Master Plan for the City's future development.

The Mayor & Council welcome the participation of all of our residents, as it is critical to each and every one of us. In this economic climate we are faced with, let us strive to work together as a community. The acronym I have used since the beginning of my journey in public service is **TEAM**, Together Each Achieves More.

In keeping in line with being a more effective leader, I have achieved not only State recognition, but National Leadership Achievement in The National League of Cities (NLC) for reaching the Diamond Regent level in its Certificate of Achievement in Leadership Program. To achieve the Diamond level, a local official must earn 80 credits encompassing all five core competency areas of the Leadership Training Institute (LTI) curriculum, referred to as "Cornerstone," "Competent Practitioner," "Communicator," "Collaborator" and Catalyst."

NLC is committed to strengthening and promoting the leadership capacity of our nation's local elected officials. As part of the NLC mission to create stronger communities, the Leadership Training Institute provides local officials with the professional development opportunities to assist them in promoting positive change and innovation within their communities. At the same time, seminars are designed to explore the nature and practice of local governmental leadership.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM COUNCILMEMBER ELENORA SIMMS**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Happy Holiday and a Prosperous New Year. I look forward to serving you in the coming year. There will be a Ward I meeting coming soon so check for date, time and location in the next City newsletter.

A WORD FROM COUNCILMEMBER GERALD RAYNOR

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season and welcome the New Year safely. As 2012 begins we welcome a new Council President, Kelly Porter and say "Goodbye" to Council Person-At-Large, LaTasha Gatling. Although we are experiencing changes within our City Government, please be assured that we will continue to work cohesively in the best interest of the City and its residents.

My focus for this year will be Economic Development. As the chair of the Economic Development Committee, and in conjunction with the Economic Development Coordinator, Sunny Cooper, I plan to address opportunities for development within the City. One area slated for redevelopment is the Feggans Center. We are presently speaking with a finance company as a potential funding source. Another opportunity for development is to encourage our state government to position a building here in our City. I learned through a series of public hearings that Maryland National Capital Park and Planning is in the process of developing plans to restructure the Blue-line Corridor which extends along Central Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Highway. This fall I had the opportunity to attend the National League of Cities Conference in Phoenix, Arizona where I took additional leadership training courses. It is my hope to bring what I have learned to my work on the Council. I welcome your input for ideas that will further assist in bringing money into the City.

In an effort to continue to keep an open line of communication with residents, this past fall I held three Ward meetings that were very informative; one at Carmody Hills Baptist Church that included residents from Ward IV and neighboring unincorporated Capitol Heights, one exclusively for Ward IV residents and one in conjunction with Ward V. I would like to thank all who attended. I look forward to seeing even more residents at the meeting this month. In addition to Ward meetings, I plan to have a Coffee with the Councilman at the Seat Pleasant McDonald's. Stay tuned for a date.

Please know that I am here to work with you to resolve issues in OUR neighborhood. Please keep me informed and I will do the same. I can be reached by phone at 240-606-8937 or e-mail gerald.raynor@seatpleasantmd.gov



UNDERSTANDING THE TAX DEFERENTIAL (PART II)

By Robert L. Ashton City Treasurer

This article is a follow up to the information contained in the November newsletter and will highlight the Tax Differential Concept in the State of Maryland and illustrate its impact on the average homeowner's county real estate taxes.

The Tax Differential Concept Highlighted

Prince George's County levies a separate tax rate, referred to as the "municipal tax rate differential," that applies to property located within a particular incorporated Municipality. This differential reduces the homeowner's tax bill to the County for governmental services and programs that municipal governments perform in lieu of the county. The tax rate differential results in a lower county property tax rate within the boundaries of a municipality. The major governmental services performed by municipalities that may result a lower county rate include police protection, highways and street maintenance, sanitation and waste collection, planning and zoning services and recreation and parks services. The illustration listed below shows the impact of the lower Tax Differential Rate on the average homeowner's living in a municipality such as the City of Seat Pleasant.

IMPACT TO AVERAGE HOME OWNER OF THE TAX DIFFERENTIAL					
Market Value			\$198.652		
County Assessment FY -			\$198,652		
Per \$100.00 of Assessed Valuation					
UNINCORPORATION (LIVING OUTSIDE A MUNICIPALITY)			INCORPORATED(LIVING WITHIN A MUNICIPALITY SUCH AS SEAT PLEASANT)		
County		\$1,907.06	County		\$1,609.08
State		222.49	State		222.49
P &P 1		554.24	P & P 1		554.24
San 2		107.27	San 2		107.27
WSTC 3		51.65	WSTC 3		51.65
T & G 4		215.57	T & G 4		215.57
Ryc 5		53.51	Ryc 5		53.51
Swc 6		30.84	Swc 6		30.84
Btc 7		19.26	Btc 7		19.26
Total Taxes		\$3,161.89	Total Taxes		\$2,863.91
<i>*Potential Cost Savings of the Tax Differential as a result of living in a municipality such as the City of Seat Pleasant is \$ 297.98</i>					
1. Maryland National Park and Planning			5. Recycling		
2. Storm Drain Maintenance			6. Solid Waste Charge		
3. Washington Suburban Transit Commission			7. Bulky Trash Collection		
4. Trash and Garbage			8. Municipal		

(TAX DIFFERENTIAL CONTINUED)

Careful review of the illustration reveals that the average homeowner saves \$297.98 in taxes to the county as result of living in a municipality such as City of Seat Pleasant a City of Excellence.

In the next month's newsletter, I will expound on the Prince George's County Veterans Exemption Program

A WORD FROM THE SEAT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

Here are the crime statistics for the City of Seat Pleasant for the month of November. Statistics for December will be in the next newsletter.

1 CLASSIFICATION OF OFFENSES (PART 1 OFFENSES)	2 OFFENSES REPORTED OR KNOWN TO POLICE (INCLUDE UNFOUNDED AND ATTEMPTS)	3 UNFOUNDED, I.E. FALSE OR BASELESS COMPLAINTS	4 NUMBER OF ACTUAL OFFENSES (COLUMN 2 MINUS COLUMN 3) INCLUDE ATTEMPTS	5 TOTAL OFFENSES CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTIONAL MEANS (Includes Column 6)	6 NUMBER OF CLEARANCES INVOLVING ONLY PERSONS UNDER 18
1. Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
a. Murder and nonnegligent manslaughter	11				
b. Manslaughter by negligence	12				
2. Forcible rape Total	0	0	0	0	0
a. Rape by force	20				
b. Assault to rape attempts	21	0	0	0	0
	22	0	0	0	0
3. Robbery Total	1	0	1	0	0
a. Firearm	30				
b. Knife or cutting instrument	31	1	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	32	0	0	0	0
d. Strong-arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	33	0	0	0	0
	34	0	0	0	0
4. Assault Total	2	0	2	2	0
a. Firearms	40				
b. Knife or cutting instrument	41	0	0	0	0
c. Other dangerous weapon	42	0	0	0	0
d. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - aggravated	43	0	0	0	0
e. Hands, fists, feet, etc. - simple	44	2	0	2	0
	45	0	0	0	0
5. Breaking and Entering Total	2	0	2	0	0
a. Forcible entry	50				
b. Unlawful entry - no force	51	2	0	0	0
c. Attempted forcible entry	52	0	0	0	0
	53	0	0	0	0
6. Larceny - Theft Total (except Motor Vehicle Theft)	10	0	10	0	0
	60				
7. Motor Vehicle Theft Total	5	0	5	0	0
a. Autos	70				
b. Trucks and Buses	71	5	0	0	0
c. Other Vehicles	72	0	0	0	0
	73	0	0	0	0
GRAND TOTAL	20	0	20	2	0
	77				

A WORD FROM CODE ENFORCEMENT

To all of the renters in Seat Pleasant, rental permit applications have gone out to property owners. If you are renting a home in Seat Pleasant, please contact the Code Enforcement Office so that we can make a note of it. It's required that all rental properties within the City receive rental permits annually and the cost is \$100.00. You can download a copy of the application from the City website at www.seatpleasantmd.gov.

During our daily inspections of the City, the Code Enforcement Department has noticed several vehicles on properties that are not currently registered, and vehicles that are being parked on the grass. These properties are in violation of the following codes in Seat Pleasant.

Chapter 154-2 Storage of vehicles: Storage and parking - It shall be unlawful for any person owning, possessing or having control over any area or property to store, park leave or cause or permit the storage, parking or leaving on such area or property of: (d) Any vehicle anywhere on the property except the garage, carport, driveway, driveway

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(CODE ENFORCEMENT CONTINUED)

apron, or other paved or improved surface located in the front or side yard of the area or property; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall be interpreted as allowing or authorizing the blocking or impeding of the any entrance, exit, sidewalk, right-of-way, lane or driveway or the elimination of green space in the excess of that permitted by applicable zoning laws and regulations.

IPMC 302.8 Motor Vehicles- Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth.

Exception: A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes.

A WORD FROM CPAC SAFETY AT THE GAS STATION

By Pamela Boone



I recently asked the police department for one bit of advice I could pass along to the residents of Seat Pleasant. In addition to being aware of your surroundings as you walk to and from your car, they want you to please be extra careful at gas stations. I've written about this problem before but it is worth repeating. There are people in our County who watch and patiently wait for the opportunity to steal your property at gas stations. They often work in groups of two and they're waiting for you. The most important crime preventive measure you can do when you get out of your car at a gas station is to lock the doors. It doesn't matter if you're paying inside or at the pump, lock your doors. It only takes a minute for someone to open your door and walk off with your purse or even drive away with your car. Don't make their job easy – keep the doors locked.

One quick note, we often want to warm our cars in the morning during these cold months, but you'll face a fine if you leave your vehicle running unattended!

If there's anything you'd like CPAC to discuss with the Seat Pleasant Police Department, Prince George's County Police or Seat Pleasant Fire Department, please email us at cpac.seatpleasant@live.com.

A WORD FROM PUBLIC WORKS BRACING FOR WINTER WEATHER

The Department has been researching alternative snow removal and ice preventive measures. These alternatives include Homemade Brine, Ice B'Gone and De-Icer. We will be monitoring the weather forecast on a daily basis to stay abreast of weather conditions and winter weather advisories. After a snow warning is issued by the County if snow continues to accumulate the County Executive can declare a State-of-Emergency. This can happen ANYTIME after snow has started to fall. Please watch news stations and listen to radio stations for advisory. A hotline number will be given out through media for residents to call for updates. During emergencies we are asking residents to use their driveways for parking if they have one. If on-street parking must be used, cars must be parked on the even-numbered side of the street during snow emergency operations. This is very important in order to allow plows to clear residential roadways. Plows cannot maneuver around vehicles to clear roadways. One side of the roadway must be clear of vehicles for plow drivers to effectively perform snow and ice removal services. Snow emergency routes will be determined at another date when weather is deteriorating due to snow accumulation. We have six vehicles that are capable of removing snow. One tractor, two pick-ups, and three dump trucks are all equipped to spread salt and plow snow. We have reaffirmed our relationship with our salt suppliers. We have also secured a back-up supplier. Should a snow emergency occur, we are asking for continued cooperation and assistance from residents to help us as we navigate our way through the storm.



SEAT PLEASANT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPLEMENTS “SAFETY FIRST FOR THE HOLIDAYS” INITIATIVE

During the month of December, the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department implemented the ‘Safety First for the Holidays’ initiative. During the month of December fire department personnel began canvassing area neighborhoods to check and install smoke detectors as well as passing out literature and sharing important fire safety information. The goal was to make sure that every home the fire department visited had a working smoke detector.



Mayor Grant and staff support fire safety

The Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company will continue checking smoke detectors into the new year as well as doing school visits to educate children and youth about fire safety and smoke detectors. For more information on the steps the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Company is taking to ensure a safer community, contact Public Information Officer Phil Martin at 301-836-1957



Lawrence Brown and Ben Brown-Bieber canvass the neighborhood.

CITY HOSTS ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

The City of Seat Pleasant successfully hosted its 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center. This annual event is held to inform our County, State and Federal representatives of the legislative priorities for the City of Seat Pleasant.

The legislative priorities of Seat Pleasant were discussed with Federal, State and County officials which included but not limited to the City’s support of the State enactment of an additional Homeowner’s Tax Credit for senior citizens; opposition to the County moving the Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Station out of the Seat Pleasant boundaries; support of road repaving and safety enhancements for Martin Luther King Jr. Highway; commitment to the creation of a Green Business Zone which would provide an income tax credit for green businesses located in the city; seeking support for CDBG funding to conduct demolition and acquisition of properties in the city and for the revitalization of our Veterans Memorial; and seeking support to assist with the construction cost for the renovation of the Feggans Center.



County Executive Rushern Baker speaks at the 2nd Annual Legislative Breakfast.

This year’s attendees included County Executive Rushern Baker, Senator Joanne Benson, County Council Member Karen Toles, Prince George’s County Sheriff High and Assistant Sherriff Darrin Palmer, Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation Debbie Tyner, Prince George’s County Schools Instructional Director and former Principal of Seat Pleasant Elementary School, Dr. Kasandra Lassiter, Senior Advisor-Economic Development Corporation Montez Anderson, Director of Governmental Relations - Maryland Municipal League, Candace Donohue and host of City business owners and residents.

SEAT PLEASANT HAS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

On Monday, December 12 th at 6:30 p.m. the City of Seat Pleasant held its Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony in the City Hall Council Chambers before the Public Session. Special Guests were Kim Carrington and Family, singers who sang Christmas Carols while Council members and residents joined in. We also provided hot drinks and light refreshments. Please plan to join us next year for this annual tradition.



Kim Carrington and Family sing Christmas Carols.



Left to right, Councilman Raynor, Council President Kelly Porter and Kim Carrington



Councilwoman Stephenson, center and attendees sing Christmas Carols along with Kim Carrington and Family

City of Seat Pleasant

"A City of Excellence"

6301 Addison Road

Seat Pleasant, Maryland 20743



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FIRST CLASS
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PERMIT #235

SEAT PLEASANT COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Seat Pleasant Community Development Corporation is pleased to announce their 5 times monthly FREE fresh fruits and vegetable food distributions at their office, 6195 Central Avenue (directly across from Safeway shopping center):

1 ST Mondays (Seniors 55+)	Monthly	1- 3 p.m.
1 st Fridays	Monthly	1-3 p.m.
2 nd Fridays	Monthly	8a.m. - noon
3 rd Friday	Monthly	1-3 p.m.
4 th Fridays	Monthly	8 a.m. - noon

Please note: Due to renovations at the Seat Pleasant Activity Center, no food will be distributed there until further notice. For further information contact Koko Barnes, Executive Director Baron Howard, Program Director or Iris Freeman, Outreach Coordinator at 301-324-2470

COME JOIN THE CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT
FOR A SCREENING OF
THE MARYLAND CONSUMER RIGHTS COALITION
DOCUMENTARY

"STEALING TRUST"
A FILM ABOUT THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF
FINANCIAL FRAUD



THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011
7 P.M.

SEAT PLEASANT CITY HALL
6301 ADDISON ROAD
SEAT PLEASANT MARYLAND 20743
SEATING IS LIMITED!

TO R.S.V.P. CONTACT SEAT PLEASANT CITY HALL AT
301-336-2600